

REMARKS

Claim 1-5 and 7-12 are in the application.

As a result of the foregoing amendment, the subject matter of claims 6 has been added into claim 1.

The Examiner will note that the claims have been amended to remove the improper multiple dependencies thereof.

Also, the typographical error in claim 1 has been corrected.

With respect to the rejection of claims 1 and 3 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, the Examiner will further note that the terminology "especially" and "preferably" has been removed. Claim 12 has been added to set forth the feature removed from claim 3.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Echerer, are respectfully requested.

Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1 as it has now been amended is patentably distinct over the reference relied on by the Examiner.

Specifically, the features according to which the system is intended for monitoring a large number of patients who visit the at least one observation station (3) at different times, wherein the observation station includes devices for automatic patient identification, and the storage device and image processing system are configured for patient-specific image storage and processing in coordination with identification data, are not found in the reference.

Therefore, it is submitted that this application is now in condition for allowance.

Therefore, in view of the foregoing, it is submitted that this application is now in condition for allowance and such allowance is respectfully solicited.

Any additional fees or charges required at this time in connection with the application may be charged to Patent and Trademark Office Deposit Account No. 11-1835.

Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on May 20, 2005.

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